

## Road Boss Rally entrants driven to make a difference from Cowra to Caloundra

### Bondi Rescue crew swaps the beach for bulldust on backroads

Around 170 adventure seekers driving 70 cars and support vehicles this morning hit the long, hard backroads from Cowra to the Sunshine Coast on the first leg of the 2019 Road Boss Rally.

Entrants and vehicles were flagged off from the Cowra Golf Club at 8am and are heading 550km over bush tracks and beaten paths to their first night's stop at Mt Hope after making a welcome lunch stop at Rankin Springs Recreation Ground.

This year – swapping the beach for bulldust – will be three members of TV's popular *Bondi Rescue* – Corey, Reidy and Whippet aboard their ute, the *Bondi Beast*. An accompanying film production team will produce a documentary of the Bondi crew's adventures during the rally.

The Road Boss Rally will travel from central west NSW across the remote west into outback Queensland, the Burke and Wills Dig Tree then north to the finish line at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast on July 18.

The iconic 10-day 4,250km rally is a major fundraiser for GIVIT and last year it raised \$250,000 for the national online charity.

Along the rally route, the Road Boss Rally and GIVIT will deliver requested and vital donations to drought-affected communities, while spreading a welcome financial boost to remote towns. A donation of winter knitted items provided by a rally entrant was presented to the Cowra Neighbourhood Centre for distribution to residents in need before the rally left the town.

Other donations along the way will include 25 windsocks for remote properties to ensure the safe landing of aircraft, including the Royal Flying Doctors Service, mail delivery or personal use. The windsocks, valued at a total \$5,000.

Dubbed “the Road Boss” for fearlessly taking participants where most rally organisers wouldn't dare go, founder and organiser Jamie Lawson said the rally would travel across some of the most challenging backroads across outback NSW and Queensland to the Sunshine Coast.

“The Road Boss Rally is unique compared with other charity car rallies,” Mr Lawson said. “With the permission of private property owners we head off on some tough and challenging tracks. We don't cruise the highways on the Road Boss Rally, we take the hard roads. It's a safe rally, not a speed course but a huge challenge for drivers and navigators that's also lots of fun while raising funds for GIVIT and supporting communities along the way.”



After their first night in Mt Hope the rally crew, including the *Bondi Rescue* trio, will head off through remote NSW to White Cliffs, Packsaddle, Tibooburra, crossing the Queensland border to Noccundra, Thargomindah, Noorama, Nindigully, Kingaroy and Caloundra.

The drivers and crew from across Australia are looking forward to some amazing adventures led by Mr Lawson whose family have been organised rallies for 30 years. He and his father Allan have raised an estimated \$20 million for charities in that time.

Mr Lawson said the Road Boss Rally would also live up to its mantra of “driving to make a difference” by helping communities along the way. “It’s not just the tens of thousands of dollars that the rally participants spend along the way in remote towns that are doing it tough but the fact we team with GIVIT to find out exactly what’s needed in the communities we visit. Rally entrants and GIVIT will help these communities get what they need.”

GIVIT’s Founder and Director Juliette Wright said the RBR had raised a staggering \$764,000 for GIVIT over the past three years. “The Road Boss Rally allows GIVIT to do what we do best, helping some of Australia’s most impoverished people,” Mrs Wright said. “This year, with the amazingly generous support of Jamie and the Road Boss Rally crew, GIVIT has been able to provide more than 224,000 vital items for Queensland residents recovering after devastating floods and support communities across NSW in the ongoing drought.”

Mr Lawson spends several months before every rally mapping out routes, gaining property owner approval and organising catering, often vital fundraising for local community groups.

To donate to the rally’s fundraising go to <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/207582/general-donations-2019-road-boss-rally>

**The 2019 Road Boss Rally set off from Cowra on Tuesday July 9, with overnight stops in Mt Hope, White Cliffs (July 10), Packsaddle (July 11), Tibooburra, via Cameron Corner (July 12), Noccundra, via Burke and Wills Dig Tree (July 13), Thargomindah (July 14), Noorama (July 15), Nindigully (July 16), Kingaroy (July 17) and Caloundra (July 18).**

**Interviews and photographs will be available throughout the rally.**

**For more information, interviews and photos contact [media@givit.org.au](mailto:media@givit.org.au) 0444 503 759.**

#### **About GIVIT**

GIVIT is a national online not-for-profit connecting those who need with those willing to give. Through its website [givit.org.au](http://givit.org.au), trusted Australian charities are supported as they request essential, quality items on behalf of their clients. GIVIT matches their needs with public and corporate generosity, facilitating quality goods to reach our most vulnerable, impoverished and marginalised individuals in a safe, easy and timely manner. Since establishment in 2009, more than 1.3 million items have been donated via GIVIT to assist Australians in need. In 2011 GIVIT established its disaster recovery service following the Queensland floods and managed the donation of more than 18,000 items. Since then GIVIT has become the official partner of the Queensland Government managing offers of assistance after disasters on its behalf and has already distributed more than 224,000 items after 2019 Queensland flooding. GIVIT distributed more than 16,000 items to people in need after the 2018 Queensland fires and after 2017’s Tropical Cyclone Debbie, coordinated the donation of 92,000 items. In 2015, GIVIT gained national attention with Founder and Director Juliette Wright receiving Australia’s Local Hero Award by the National Australia Day Council and inducted into the Australian Businesswomen’s Network Hall of Fame. In 2019, she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). GIVIT also received a National Resilient Australia Award by Australia’s Attorney-General for its disaster recovery service and The Australian National Innovation Challenge Award.

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